

REMARKS

Claims 17, 25, 34-36 and 39 are pending in the application.

Claims 34-36 are allowed.

Claims 17 and 25 are objected to.

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 39 has been canceled.

Claims 17, 25, and 34-36 are amended.

Claims 17, 25, and 34-36 remain in the application for consideration.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 17 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 17, line 9, it appears that --before forming contact patterns-- should be inserted after "exposed."

In claim 17, lines 16 and 17 should be deleted.

In claim 25, line 11, it appears that --before forming contact patterns-- should be inserted after "exposed."

Claims 17 and 25 have been amended as per the Examiner's suggestions, and as such, are now in proper form for allowance.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liaw, et al. (5,874,359) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Claim 39 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the Objections set forth in this Office Action.

Claims 34-36 are allowed.

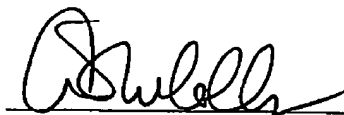
The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the patentable subject matter of these claims. Claims 17 and 25 have been amended to comply with the Examiner's suggested modifications, as mentioned above. In addition, the Applicants have made minor

grammatical amendments to claims 17, 25, and 34-36, which do not alter the scope of the claims. As such claims 17, 25, and 34-36 are in proper form for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 17, 25, and 34-36 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Alan T. McCollom
Reg. No. 28,881

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office via facsimile number
(571) 273-8300 on April 6, 2006.



Li Mei Vermilya